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OPERATIONS COORDINATING BOARD
Washington 25, D. C.

August 20, 1956

MEMORANDUM OF MEETING - OCB WORKING GROUP ON LATIN AMERICA

72nd meeting
Thursday, August 16, 1956
11:00 A. M. at OCB

Working Group Members or Alternates Present:

STATE	Mr. Spencer M. King, Chairman
DEFENSE	Lt. Col. Henry W. Taylor
CIA	Representative present
USIA	Mr. George R. Monson
ICA	Mr. Walter Bauer
LABOR	Mr. Joseph Harmon
COMMERCE	Mr. A. J. Poirier
TREASURY	Mr. Herman J. Koenig
OCB	Mr. Thomas D. Kingsley, Assistant Staff Representative

The OCB Working Group on Latin America met on August 16, 1956, and discussed the following items:

1. Briefing on Secretary Dulles' Conference with LA Ambassadors on the Suez Crisis - The Chairman of the Working Group informed the members of the recent briefing of LA Ambassadors by Secretary Dulles on the Suez problem. He explained to them why no LA nation had been invited to attend the London Conference on the Suez Canal on the basis that those invited had either participated in the 1888 Convention on the Canal, were very dependent on the Canal for their foreign trade, or were countries whose citizens owned significant ship tonnage which passed through the Canal. In this connection, Panama argues that both the Canal and her ship tonnage entitle her to attend the London meeting. There was considerable discussion at the Secretary's meeting regarding the use of force by France and Britain and its justification under the UN Charter. Several LA Ambassadors believed that the use of force would be a Charter violation.

2. LA Policy Paper in Planning Board - The LA policy paper was mentioned and it was noted that the Planning Board was considering it again on August 16, including the Financial Appendix.

3. Hemisphere TV - Copies of the attached Memorandum on Hemisphere TV possibilities were distributed to members and the subject discussed by the USIA representative. Mr. Monson said that inter-American TV was definitely possible and was technically feasible. Certain legal aspects of international TV broadcasting were being worked out at present and direct transmission to Mexico and Cuba from the U. S. this Fall was likely. He said it

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was also possible that by 1957 direct U. S. transmission to the North Coast of South America would be feasible. He continued that an inter-American TV network was technically possible, but was several years away. He thought that USIA could arrange for broadcasts of special events to LA once private companies had made network arrangements, but that in general he felt locally-produced shows, such as USIA is now doing in the radio field, were more suitable. Local editing of U.S.-produced TV programs has many advantages over full shows transmitted from the U. S. in order to meet the local requirements of various audiences in LA. Some TV shows are already being produced and sent to Argentina, for example.

Mr. Monson is going to check on Argentine and Venezuelan TV equipment to see whether British TV equipment which they employ is compatible with the U. S. system.

The Group felt that under present circumstances there was nothing that could be done in connection with the TV question.

3. Engineer Battalions - Mr. Bauer said nothing had developed in this connection.

4. South Atlantic Conference Proposal of Argentina - Col. Taylor inquired whether any developments in this respect had occurred, and Mr. King replied that the U. S. was not going to offer to send observers to such a meeting, if held, as suggested in a recent telegram from Buenos Aires. The Argentine Navy apparently made this proposal in an ill-timed manner and little support has since been forthcoming from any source. It is now much watered down to joint maneuvers of Brazilian, Uruguayan and Argentine navies and talks under the provisions of existing inter-American defense treaties. If they are held within this framework, the U. S. will not oppose them, according to the Chairman.

5. Communist Plan for Latin America - The field replies to the inquiries sent by State and USIA on the progress being made under the directives in the Communist Plan for LA are coming in, but not all have been received. Mr. King said State was preparing to remind those Missions which have not replied of the need to send them in at an early date. OCB will make a summary analysis of the replies for the information of the Working Group members in order to determine the effectiveness of the field implementation of the Plan.

6. 1290-d Papers - At this point the Treasury, Commerce and Labor members of the Working Group left, since the Chairman indicated that the remainder of the meeting would be devoted to a discussion of the 1290-d program in LA. He read a Memorandum on the subject which he had prepared for Mr. Harrison in U/OP summarizing to date all developments in the field. Mr. King asked Col. Taylor if he would sound out his superiors on the question of accrediting a public information officer to the Army Mission in Bolivia to assist the Ministry of Defense in developing a public relations program to build public confidence in the Army, an objective recommended in the 1290-d paper on Bolivia.

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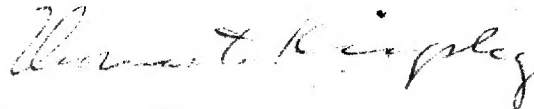
The Chairman also asked the USIA member what the possibilities were of a more indirect approach to this problem than that recommended by the Embassy in La Paz which would not involve USIA excessively with the Ministry of Defense.

Mention was also made of the question of priorities in dealing with the general 1290-d program in connection with Venezuela, Costa Rica, Brazil and Chile.

Details of the 1290-d discussion are omitted since they are all contained in Mr. King's Memorandum on the subject which provided the bulk of the material for this part of the meeting. This Memorandum can be obtained by the OCB Staff Representative for any Working Group member to examine upon request.

7. UN Backing for Ambassador Lodge - Mr. Spencer King provided the Group with a list of possible topics which LA countries might bring up in the UN 11th General Assembly this Fall. Copy of this list is attached to these Minutes.

8. Next Meeting - The next meeting of the OCB Working Group on Latin America will be at 11:00 A. M. Thursday, August 30, at OCB, 700 Jackson Place, N. W.



Thomas D. Kingsley
Acting OCB Staff Representative.

ATTACHMENTS: (2)

1. SECRET - USIA Report on T-V Activities
2. CUO - UNGA Items of Special Interest to LA Governments (8/15/56)

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